



Henry County, Virginia

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Henry County Monthly Newsletter

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New water line project commences

Officials with the federal government, Henry County, the Henry County Public Service Authority, and Pittsylvania County teamed together July 29 at the PSA's Philpott Water Plant to celebrate a new water line that will provide public water to parts of Henry County and Pittsylvania County.

Congressman Virgil Goode (5th District) and Congressman Rick Boucher (9th District) joined the Henry County Board of Supervisors, the Pittsylvania County Board of Supervisors and the Henry County Public Service Authority to kick off the 58 East Interconnector.

"This is an alliance between Henry County and Pittsylvania County that will serve both communities well in attracting new business and development to Southside," said Congressman Goode.

The 58 East Interconnector will bring water from the Philpott plant in Henry County all the way to the new Brosville Industrial Park in Pittsylvania County. In between the line also will serve the Bryant property, the 1,200-acre parcel recently purchased by Henry County for a new industrial park, and PSA customers on the eastern part of the County currently served with purchased water from the City of Martinsville.

The project has a budget of \$1,870,350, with \$500,000 funding provided by the federal government and the balance provided by Henry County, the PSA and a Pittsylvania County grant through the Tobacco Commission. The project is expected to begin in August and has a six-month completion time frame.

The water line will cross the 1,200 acre Bryant tract behind the Patriot Centre on Barrows Mill Road, then run along Clearview Drive and cross to State Route 57. It then will go along Rolling Hills Drive to U.S. Route 58 toward Danville. A connection from the Brosville Industrial Park north to Henry County is already in place, and the new line will connect with that line to provide water to the business park.

Gerry Lawicki, Chairman of the PSA's Board of Directors, lauded the cooperative effort between Henry County, the PSA, and Pittsylvania County.

"This project underscores our working relationship with our neighbors in Pittsylvania County," Lawicki said. "As you know, this project is really part two of an overall effort to bring public water to the Brosville park. It is almost unheard of that two neighboring localities are working together to this extent for the common good. We are thrilled to have established this type of relationship with our Pittsylvania County neighbors, and we look forward to building on that in the future."

Henry County Board of Supervisors Chairman Jim Adams focused on the project's impact on the Bryant property.

"I know I speak for the Board when I say we eagerly await the day when we gather at the Bryant site to announce our next major industrial project," Adams said. "I hope that day comes soon, and when it does, it will be because of the foresight shown today with this water line project."

EDC plans 10-week entrepreneur workshop

Entrepreneurs in Martinsville-Henry County now have a secret weapon that will increase their chances for success: **FastTrac®**, a series of workshops and programs aimed to help entrepreneurs hone the skills they need to create, manage and grow successful businesses.

The Martinsville-Henry County Economic Development Corporation's Office of Small and Minority Business Development, a division dedicated to helping entrepreneurs start and grow successful businesses, will launch the **FastTrac® NewVenture™** program beginning September 9, 2008. Sessions will be held on Tuesdays, 2:30 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. through November 18, 2008, at the West Piedmont Business Development Center. Preregistration is required. The cost of the program to participants is \$75; however, funding assistance is available for those who qualify.

FastTrac® NewVenture™ connects entrepreneurs to the best resources available to help them pursue and realize their entrepreneurial dreams. The program provides small business owners with business insights, strategic visioning guidance, professional networking connections, and other resources, preparing them to create a new business or expand an existing enterprise. "Many entrepreneurs have little or no experience, so they are ideal for the kind of training and mentoring that **FastTrac®** programs offer," said Lisa Fultz, director of the Office of Small and Minority Business Development. "In our work to help entrepreneurs, we knew this program would provide the educational component needed to help business owners improve their chances for success."

A typical **FastTrac®** session includes facilitated discussions and activities, networking, small peer groups, a guest speaker and coaching sessions. Participants work on their own businesses to create an actionable business plan by the end of the 10-week program.

Nearly 300,000 entrepreneurs have participated in **FastTrac®** programs. **FastTrac®** is a program of the Kansas City-based Ewing Marion Kauffman Foundation, the largest organization in the nation solely focused on entrepreneurial success at all levels. For more information on becoming involved in the **FastTrac® NewVenture™** program, entrepreneurs may call (276) 403-5940.

County offices to be closed September 1

All Henry County offices will be closed September 1 for the Labor Day holiday. All offices will reopen September 2 at their regular times.

For more information about the Henry County, Virginia., visit The Official Website of Henry County, Virginia at <http://www.henrycountyva.gov>.

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